

INFORMATION ABOUT:
Camping on Public Lands

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What are public lands?

"Public lands" are those lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. There are 17.8 million acres of public land in Wyoming. The majority of the public lands are concentrated in the western part of the state.

Where may I camp on public lands?

Camping is allowed anywhere except those few places actually closed to overnight camping. Camping opportunities are available in developed campgrounds as well as undeveloped areas.

Developed campgrounds generally have parking spaces, tables, fire grilles, drinking water, toilets, and garbage service. A daily use fee is normally required at such sites. The "Wyoming Recreation Guide," a brochure available at any Wyoming BLM office, shows the location of all developed campgrounds.

Undeveloped campsites can be located on public lands most anywhere near an existing road or vehicle route. Care must be exercised in selecting a campsite to ensure that it doesn't interfere with other authorized public land uses. For example, it would not be appropriate to camp in the midst of an active timber sale area or at an oil production facility. Otherwise, there are few limitations as to where one can camp. No services are provided for campers in undeveloped areas.

May I build a fire on public lands?

Yes, campfires may be used on public lands. In developed campgrounds, fires must be confined to the facilities provided for them. Campfires are authorized in undeveloped areas as well. In undeveloped areas, it is recommended to build fires in fire rings, stoves, grills, or portable fire pans. Campfires must be used with caution to prevent wildfires. During periods of extreme wildfire conditions public lands may be closed to open fires.

Reservations for camping on the public lands.

Most campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis only.

How long may I camp on public lands?

Persons may camp on public lands in a specific location for up to 14 days within any 28 day period. After the 14th day of occupation, campers must move outside a five mile radius from the previous location. In some areas the allowable length of stay is longer. Check with the local BLM office for specifics.

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Are there campsites accessible to persons with disabilities?

Yes. Most BLM campgrounds have at least some accessible facilities. These include parking and tent areas, outdoor vault toilets, tables, water hydrants, grilles, and trash receptacles.

Are horses and pets allowed on public land?

Yes. Pets are welcome but need to be under control at all times. State and county leash regulations apply. Equestrian use is permitted throughout public lands except where posted. Check before traveling to developed recreation areas. The use of weed-free hay is recommended.

Camping on other public lands

Camping opportunities abound on National Forest lands, state parks, some lands owned by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, and in all units of the National Park System. However, overnight camping and open fires are not allowed on state trust or "school" lands, many of which are intermingled with BLM-administered lands. Please check your land status map to know the land ownership at all times.

May I camp in a Wilderness Study Area?

Yes. BLM Wilderness Study Areas provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. However, there may be limitations on certain types of uses in these areas. Motor vehicle use may be limited and wood for campfires is limited to dead and down material. Low impact camping techniques are encouraged. The use of wheelchairs by the disabled is allowable. Please contact the local BLM office to determine what other limitations may exist.

Where can I get more information?

For detailed information on land status, access, other recreation opportunities, or other facts regarding BLM-administered public land, please contact the local BLM office. Better yet, drop in and get acquainted. We hope your visit to the public lands will be safe and enjoyable.

Public land is your land

Please remember that public land is your land. Treat it with care and respect so that future generations may also enjoy recreational opportunities on public land.